

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are proud to congratulate Giovanna Verdecchia  
4 of Chicago Heights for her outstanding job as State President  
5 of both the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois and the  
6 Order Sons of Italy in America; and

7 WHEREAS, Italian native Giovanna Verdecchia was born in  
8 San Benedetto del Tronto in the Marche Region and attended  
9 school in Italy; she married Louis Verdecchia and came to the  
10 United States, where her husband owned and operated Roma  
11 Tailors in Chicago Heights; she is the mother of three  
12 children, Louis D. (Melissa), Francesca, and Brendan;  
13 Giovanna Verdecchia became involved in her community when her  
14 children were very young by volunteering in their respective  
15 schools and sports programs, and serving as a Catechist in  
16 her Church; and

17 WHEREAS, Giovanna Verdecchia has been a member of the  
18 Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) since 1983; as a member  
19 of the Chicago Heights Lodge, she worked on many committees  
20 and chaired a successful membership drive enrolling 40 new  
21 young members into her lodge; in addition, she served as  
22 Trustee, Recording Secretary, Orator, and State Delegate to  
23 the 1991 Convention; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1991, Giovanna Verdecchia was appointed  
25 Interim State Trustee and then appointed Chairman of the  
26 Alzheimer's Committee; in 1993, she spearheaded new  
27 fundraisers and adopted the national coin drop in the State  
28 of Illinois, successfully asking the Governor to declare the  
29 coin drop day Order of the Sons of Italy/Alzheimer's  
30 Association "Partners in Progress" Day; in 1995, Giovanna  
31 Verdecchia was appointed General Chairman of the State  
32 Convention and was also elected State Recording Secretary and

1 Delegate to the National Convention, where she was placed on  
2 national committees; in 1998, she was elected the first  
3 President of the Illinois Sons of Italy Foundation, and in  
4 1999, she was elected the first woman State President of the  
5 Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois; she was re-elected  
6 State President again by acclamation in June 2001; and

7 WHEREAS, As State President, Giovanna Verdecchia has made  
8 membership, unity, interaction with other organizations, the  
9 welfare of the Italian community, the promotion of the  
10 Italian Language, and the Italian culture and image her main  
11 priorities; she appointed committees, concentrating on growth  
12 in membership and image; membership increased, new lodges  
13 were formed, and a Youth Membership Program was adopted under  
14 her guidance; she was also instrumental in helping the  
15 National Order establish in Wisconsin by assisting in the  
16 formation of a lodge in Milwaukee; Giovanna Verdecchia  
17 formulated an Adopt a Lodge program wherein State Trustees  
18 serve as Grand Lodge ambassadors to maintain lines of  
19 communication; she also established a newsletter, "Il  
20 Duemila", which is published quarterly; and

21 WHEREAS, President Verdecchia instituted 3 awards, the  
22 Humanitarian Award, the Spirit Award, and the Golden Lion  
23 Award; through her efforts, the Italian American Human  
24 Relation Foundation of Chicago became a lodge of OSIA and now  
25 serves as the Illinois Commission for Social Justice; and

26 WHEREAS, President Verdecchia is a member of OSIA's  
27 National Commission on Education, a voting member of the  
28 National Commission on Social Justice, and in the capacity of  
29 State President, a member of the National Cabinet; on behalf  
30 of the community, she has written numerous letters protesting  
31 the defaming portrayal of Italians in the entertainment  
32 industry and has participated in discussions with other  
33 organizations on ways to better serve the Italian community;

1 she has also been working with the Italian Consulate to bring  
2 the Italian Language into schools, and she assisted in  
3 petitioning the Illinois Legislature for funds for that  
4 purpose; and

5 WHEREAS, Giovanna Verdecchia travels extensively as a  
6 representative of OSIA to functions throughout Chicago, to  
7 meetings and conventions of OSIA nationwide; in December  
8 2000, she was chosen by Consul General Enrico Granara as a  
9 delegate to the First World Conference of Italians Abroad in  
10 Rome and the First Women's Conference in Lecce; therefore, be  
11 it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
13 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
14 we congratulate Giovanna Verdecchia on her outstanding  
15 efforts as State President of the Grand Lodge of the State of  
16 Illinois and the Order Sons of Italy in America, and we wish  
17 her all the best in the future; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to Giovanna Verdecchia as an expression of our  
20 esteem.